

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01265 301626Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W

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R 301515Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9668

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 1265

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: MININT CALLS STUDENT SITUATION "SERIOUS"

REF: CAIRO 1071

1. REFTEL NOTED SERIES OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OVER LAST TEN DAYS OR SO IN WHICH UNIVERSITY-RELATED SUBJECTS WERE MAIN COMPLAINTS.

2. UK AMBASSADOR CALLED JANUARY 29 ON MININT FAHMI AND RAISED ISSUE OF STUDENT UNREST WITH HIM. MININT, ALTHOUGH INITIALLY RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS SUBJECT, FINALLY ADMITTED THAT HE BELIEVES SITUATION IS "SERIOUS." FAHMI SAID CERTAIN STUDENT ELEMENTS ARE EMPLOYING CONFRONTATION TACTICS DESIGNED TO PROVOKE THE POLICE. POLICE, HOWEVER, ARE UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO RESIST THESE PROVOCATIONS AND, CONSEQUENTLY, CONFRONTATION TACTICS HAVE FAILED TO WORK.

3. COMMENT: UK EMBASSY SHARES OUR ASSESSMENT THAT CURRENT STUDENT FERMENT IS LESS ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMPATIENCE WITH OVERCROWDED UNIVERSITY CONDITIONS THEN TO COST OF LIVING

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PROBLEMS. AS NOTED REFTEL, WITH END-OF-TERM EXAMINATIONS

UNDERWAY NOW AND TWO WEEKS SEMESTER BREAK TO FOLLOW,
THIS IS NOT IDEAL TIME OF YEAR FOR PROVOCATEURS TO STIR
UP STUDENT POPULATION. THAT AGITATORS ARE AT WORK IS QUITE
CLEAR. SOME OPERATE OPENLY. FATAH'S CAIRO OFFICE DIRECTOR,
FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN SPEAKING IN CAIRO AND THE DELTA TO
STUDENT GROUPS URGING GREATER DONATIONS OF MONEY AND TIME
TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE. OTHER AGITATION IS, OF COURSE,
CLANDESTINE. LAST YEAR WE SPECULATED THAT LIBYAN MONEY WAS
GOING NOT ONLY TO RIGHTISTS BUT ALSO TO LEFTISTS ON CAMPUSES.
UK EMBASSY TELLS US NOW THAT THEY HAVE REPORT THAT THIS
IS SO.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, LIVING CONDITIONS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0310
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976016/aaaaaeoe.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 1071
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MININT CALLS STUDENT SITUATION "SERIOUS"
TAGS: PINT, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006